

Tom Horne
Superintendent

N·E·W·S

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Contact: Amy Rezzonico, Press Secretary, 602-364-1960 or 602-542-5072

Friday, June 27, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPERINTENDENT TOM HORNE TO PROPOSE HISTORY STANDARDS REVISIONS

PHOENIX (Friday, June 27, 2003) Tom Horne, State Superintendent of Schools, will propose to the State Board of Education on Monday, that the high school history standards be revised to include coverage of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution in American History, and the Greco-Roman Basis for Western Civilization in World History.

Under the standards in effect when he took office, these subjects were not taught in high school history, because of a division in the courses by grade level. The last time the period of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution would be taught would be in seventh grade, when the students are 13 years old, and high school history would pick up with the Civil War. The last time the Greco-Roman Basis for Western Civilization would be taught would be in the sixth grade, when the students are 12 years old, and high school World History would pick up with the Renaissance.

Horne stated: "Students who are 12 and 13 years old are too young to fully absorb these important concepts. Our high school students must learn about our Revolutionary War, Declaration of Independence, Constitution, founding fathers, the ideas on which this country was founded, and the Greco-Roman Basis for Western Civilization."

A teachers advisory group was convened to deal with these proposed revisions. All teachers who had participated in the prior standards were invited, as well as some additional history teachers. After considerable discussion, the teachers advisory group voted 16 to 1 to support Horne's proposed revisions.

Horne will present the proposed revisions at the State Board of Education meeting on Monday, June 30, 2003, at the Department of Education Board Room.

###